

Volume 2, Issue 5

January—March
2011Maricopa County
Animal Care and Control

Trailin' Tails Newsletter



One of the many dogs that has passed through MCACC's doors looking for a forever home— he got one!

Dog Found in Desert has Strong Spirit

This past October, a little Chihuahua was found wandering around the desert like so many other poor souls in Maricopa County. Unlike others, this little guy faced a tougher challenge than just being homeless. He has a spinal condition that renders his back legs useless. Imagine surviving in the hot desert with only your arms to get around.



wrapped for awhile to let the sores and cuts heal. He is incontinent so he needs to wear a diaper as well. With the help of a local veterinarian, Max acquired a wheel chair which hoists his back legs off the ground and gives him great mobility. Right now, he is getting used to it and still prefers to get around the old-fashioned way.

Max gets along wonderfully with kids, cats, and other dogs. He is a little Chihuahua with the personality of a Great Dane. Max is completely unaware that he has a disability. MCACC is in the process of finding Max his permanent home.

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC) took the Chihuahua in and named him Max. His back leg had open sores from dragging behind him. Despite his condition, Max was jovial and full of happy energy. His eyes smiled and everyone who saw him fell in love.

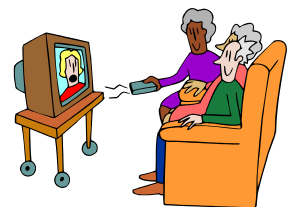
Max went home with a staff member who quickly learned that taking care of him is a big responsibility. She found a wonderful foster mom who had the time for Max. Max needed to have his legs

Saving severely injured animals can be quite taxing on MCACC staff. It takes a lot of time, people and resources to fix these poor, injured animals. Many of MCACC's life-saving programs are funded through donations. For more information about how you can help MCACC and other animals like Max, please visit <http://www.maricopa.gov/Pets/AboutUs/Help.aspx>

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Mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 12, 2011**, to watch the *Wags and Whiskers Wish Drive* from 2-5pm on ABC Channel 15! This will be the first-ever telethon for Friends of Animal Care & Control (FACCs), which supports the non-mandated programs of Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC).



Tune in to learn more about MCACC and FACCs programs, pick up some pet-care tips, meet animals available for adoption, hear from MCACC staff and volunteers, and enter for a chance to win prizes while supporting these agencies and the animals they serve! Please help us help the animals!



One of the many cats that have come through our doors needing a new home—he got one!

Dangerous Foods for your pet

Mushrooms

Chocolate

Macadamia Nuts

Grapes

Raisins

Onions

Garlic

Avocados

Candy

Fatty Foods

Salt

Coffee (any caffeine)

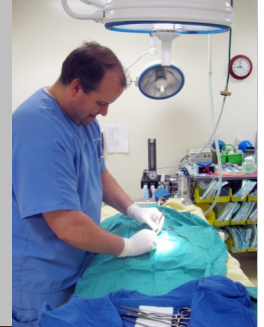
Alcohol

Veterinarian's Corner

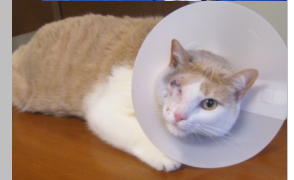
I am sure that most readers think that the veterinary staff here must be very bored doing just spay and neuter surgeries. I want to share that we do more than that. One of the "routine" things that we do while in surgery, as long as we have time, is to remove unattached rear dewclaws. These are the "thumbs" on the rear paws that are held onto the body with only a thin attachment of skin. If these were not addressed, it is possible for them to get entangled on bedding or shrubbery and get ripped off- causing a lot of bleeding and stress for the adopter and the pet.



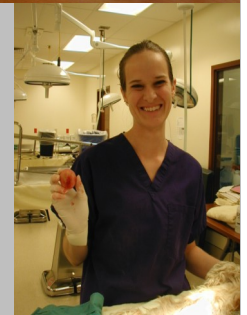
We will also remove deciduous (baby) teeth in animals that are over 6 months old. By this age, the baby teeth should be gone and if they are not, they are crowding the mouth, causing the permanent teeth to develop tartar more quickly or causing other oral problems (crooked teeth, ulcers on the opposing gum/lips).



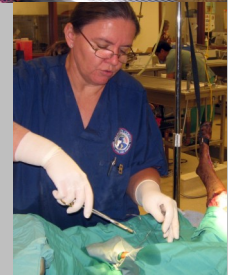
Reducible hernias are also something that we will repair. These are defects in the body wall that allow abdominal tissue to "leak" into the space under the skin, where it is not supposed to be. Reducible means that we can push that tissue back where it is supposed to be. If a piece of intestine were to "leak" into this area, it could become trapped due to gas production within the bowel. This leads to pain and possibly the loss of the trapped portion of the intestines.



Some of the cool surgeries that we have done: removed bladder stones, removed a small mass from a cat, toe amputations, limb amputations, enucleations (remove eye due to being popped out of socket), remove imbedded collars, removed a foreign body from the stomach of a puppy, enlarged the nostrils on a couple of dogs to prevent collapsing trachea, and treated lacerations and burns. We also spend a lot of time treating upper respiratory disease, a few intestinal diseases and bite wounds.



And just when you thought that the only neat things that we do are surgical treatments, I want to share with you my personal reward. From time to time we have interns and volunteer veterinarians that come to the shelter to help out. I enjoy showing them the surgery suite (which is large compared to private practice) and the tricks to do surgery quickly (like how to find body parts in a small incision) but I am most proud of the surgical staff that the shelter employs. Watching them work is like watching a Swiss timepiece's movements. Without such precision there is no way that we could do the 30 to 50 surgeries that are done on a daily basis. I could spend hours watching the ballet they perform while moving anesthetized animals from one surgical area to another, but someone has to DO the surgeries.



Pictures, from top: amputated leg; spay; eye enucleation; bladder stone; surgical staff; leg repair

The Veterinarian's Corner is written by Dr. Monika Durgin, MCACC's Chief Veterinarian.

Employee Profile: Field Supervisor

An animal control officer wears many hats, and it may surprise you to know that "animal lover" is one of them.

"Dogcatchers" traditionally had the bad reputation that their only duty is to round up stray dogs and euthanize them. While occasionally that does happen if the dog is a danger to himself or others, or is injured beyond repair, modern-day animal control officers have a responsibility

to protect animals as well as people. Even the name Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC) reflects this shift in focus.

Lt. Nancy Spencer, a field supervisor with MCACC, exemplifies this mindset. It horrifies her to see the way some people treat their animals. For example, on a recent call to help another officer catch a reported stray dog, she witnessed a young girl picking up a small dog in her yard by the tail. Spencer knew the girl had to have learned that from the adults in her life, but she still took the opportunity to try to educate the girl in the humane treatment of animals.

Fortunately, these (and more severe) kinds of cases are few and far between. A more typical day for Lt. Spencer involves briefing staff and returning calls from the public from her shelter office, dispatching her field officers, and sometimes going out in the field herself. The latter is Spencer's favorite part of the



job, as she was a field officer for over six years. (In fact, she originally thought her experience as a vet tech would merely enable her to get a job with the County, from which she could then more easily move to other divisions. But she loved being a field officer so much that she decided to stay.) Animal control officers are

tasked with enforcing animal control laws and ordinances governing such issues as loose dogs, dangerous animals, quarantines, bite incidents, and license and vaccination requirements. In the field, this includes everything from rescuing both domestic and stray animals from a variety of hazardous situations, educating residents about proper pet care, and issuing citations for license and leash law violations.

Not only does Nancy love her job, but (like many of her fellow field agents) her own pets are often animals that ended up at the shelter. This is one way to deal with becoming emotionally involved with some of the more troubling cases. The other is doing all she can to make sure that each animal finds its way back home or into a new, loving home where it will receive all the care it needs. Fortunately for all of us, Lt. Spencer has been serving the animals and residents of Maricopa County for 16 years, and has no intention of stopping.



One of the many dogs MCACC has taken in needing a forever home.

Dog License Tags are Changing

Wouldn't it be great if you could put your dog's tag on his or her collar and not have to replace it every year with a new tag and different number? Wouldn't it also be great if you could put a duplicate on your key chain just in case your loved one got out? Well... If you live in Maricopa County and license your dog in accordance with the law, the time is here. MCACC now issues permanent tags for your beloved pet. You must still renew your license each year, but the tag will not have to be replaced unless it should become lost. The intent is to make it easier for dog owners to license their pets without replacing tags and to reduce confusion about what tag should be on the collar.

Did you know that MCACC is the #1 life saving agency in Arizona? MCACC takes great pride in this fact and we know that, as residents of Maricopa County, you do too. The generous support and responsible pet ownership of the residents of Maricopa County have made this possible. A big part of our success is dog licensing. Currently, there are more than 335,000 licensed dogs in Maricopa County or 38% of the total dogs. We know we can do better! In Maricopa County dogs with a current license have the benefit of a free ride home, if MCACC can make contact with the owner, or a free, 24 hour stay in one of our shelters. The other benefit of licensing is that all fees support the shelter and care of the animals in our facilities. In essence, licensing truly is the animal way of paying it forward. A dog with a caring owner is caring for another who has no one. Licensing isn't just the law, it's a life saving partnership for the animals in our community. For more information about licensing or donating to MCACC please visit our website at www.pets.maricopa.gov or call us at 602-506-7387.

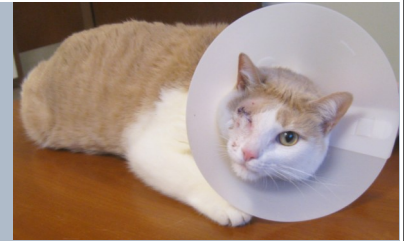
Spay and neuter your pets

Get your dogs and cats spayed or neutered! MCACC takes in over 50,000 animals a year, many of them unwanted kittens and puppies. These innocent animals have little chance of survival in our shelters—they need too much care. Please help us stop unnecessary euthanasia—spay and neuter your pets! SNAP, MCACC's Spay and Neuter Assistance Program, offers a free spay or neuter surgery for your cat or dog. Please visit us on the web at www.pets.maricopa.gov for more information.

Cat's New Lease on Life



MCACC took in over 55,000 dogs and cats last year. Please give one a good home!

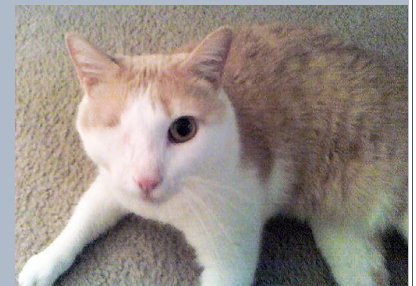


Kennedy is one tough cat. He came to Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC) in early August, sick, with eyes that hurt, and not much energy. Kennedy was not ready to give up the fight for a future. He was treated for Coccidia and then an Upper Respiratory Infection in August. Clinic staff tried to treat his eye. It did not improve, and continued to hurt him. His eye was removed in September. Through all the treatments, and time left alone in Isolation, Kennedy has remained a sweet cat. He is very affectionate and will rub up against whatever part of you he can get to remind you to keep on petting him. Not too long ago, Kennedy caught the eye of a wonderful person. Below is their story:

"The day I adopted Kennedy, whom my son has now renamed Keith, was just a regular day. After running our morning errands and heading home, we came across an adoption event. After browsing, petting, and discussing the many types and breeds of animals, we decided to go to the Maricopa Animal Care & Control bus to see who else was looking for a home. As we stepped onto the bus, we were asked if we could be helped. My reply jokingly was, "No, we are just looking, unless you have an animal with three legs." The reply I was given was, "No, but we do have a one-eyed cat up for adoption." Right away, my heart dropped. I knew that this kitty was special in his own way and just needed someone to look past the hurt and pain he had been through. As I walked up to his cage, he locked eyes with me, and right away, I could tell he had chosen me as his owner. As soon as we got Keith home, he immediately took to our home, and his fellow brothers: Casper (rescued from malnutrition) age 14, Patterson (rescued from a storm drain) age 13, Crooks (rescued as a newborn kitten with a broken tail) age 2, and Ulysses (adopted from the Humane Society - 3 legs) age 2.

Keith has made his place in our home. He has already taught us what he expects from us - food and some-one available for rubbing, cuddling, tummy scratches and playtime. He adores his scratching post and sleeping on ALL of the furniture as long as someone else is on it. He loves anything he can chase. Having one eye is definitely not a handicap for him whatsoever. Deciding to let Keith adopt us has been a great decision and even more of a reinforcement that despite pain and hard-times, persistence and love can be all the world to one little soul to turn their lives around. Needless to say, I have learned that there are no better animals in this world than those that know they have been given another chance.

I strongly encourage family, friends and those around me to choose shelter and rescue animals over those in classified ads and for sale in the local pet stores. Not only are these animals more loving, loyal, thankful, and special than others, but by being adopted by one, you are saving lives. Adoption leaves a feeling of pride - not only have you given an animal a home, but you have prevented a life from being lost. Keith carries a pride in each step, each pounce, each stretch and each breath that I have never seen. He has proven to me once again that sickness, handicap, lack of a home, and being on the edge is not the end, but rather a chance for a new beginning that is never taken for granted, especially by me. Keith and all of my cats have taught me to never give up, never give in, and if you keep trying, you end up on top and take those around you with you."



Rabies Clinic

Specials: \$20

West and East Shelters

Sunday 11 — 5:30pm

Tues - Thur 9 — 11am

Foster Families Save Lives

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control needs foster families. Puppy and kitten season is right around the corner and we'd like to be prepared. If you don't think fostering makes a difference, read the letter below from Yvonne, one of our volunteers.

This past summer, Gail, a MCACC foster mom, received a call from a friend who said that her son found two kittens in a dumpster. Gail was between fosters but expecting house guests, so she called me. I took the 3-week old bottle feeders for about 2 weeks until Gail could take over. I named them Gabby and Gus. While volunteering, I ran into someone at the East shelter who was looking for an orange tabby kitten as a companion for her older female cat. I told her about Gus, we kept in touch, and Gus went to a happy home. His sister, Gabby (aka Shasta), still needed a home, so Gail put out the word, and through contacts found Matina who adopted her immediately after spaying. Her family is very happy with their new addition. "Shasta is growing so fast! She is so loved, and she certainly is our little treasure. Donner our older cat has taken to her too---amazingly he is even teaching her the ropes (good and bad!). We couldn't have asked for such a loving and sweet, playful and snuggly kitty cat. Thanks again. You truly brought smiles into our family."



MCACC took in over 12,000 cats last year. Please give one a good home!

MCACC Needs Volunteers

Maricopa County has many homeless animals. Have you ever wondered how you can be of aid? Volunteer at Maricopa County Animal Care & Control! This is a great way to help our furry friends. You can give back in a variety of ways: become an adoption counselor and help the dogs and cats find their forever homes; take pictures of them for our website; socialize dogs and cats by walking and playing with them.



Besides volunteering at the shelter, you can help out at our mobile adoption events at various locations throughout the valley. You can become a foster parent and provide a temporary home for

an animal (or two) until they are ready to go up for adoption. If you are good with a sewing machine, you can cut down old comforters and sew them to make individual doggie and kitty beds.

Becoming a volunteer at MCACC is also a great place to meet people with the same love of animals. Everyone is working together to end the euthanasia of adoptable and treatable dogs and cats. For additional information

about MCACC or the volunteer program, please visit our website at www.pets.maricopa.gov. You can submit an online volunteer application and see a list of upcoming orientation dates. Help us save lives!



Save a life and become forever loved— come find your new furry friend at one of our shelters.

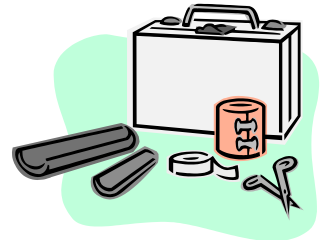
If you'd like to receive this newsletter electronically, please visit us at : www.pets.maricopa.gov



One of the lucky cats to find a new home at MCACC this year.

Create a First Aid Kit for your Pet

You probably have a first aid kit in your house and even your car for you and your family. But what about your pet? Do you have a first aid kit for your furry family members? A proper pet emergency kit can buy you time until you can get your pet to a veterinarian. Many professionals suggest making two kits – one for home and one for the car. A sturdy bag that zips closed or a plastic lidded bin are good starters.



Your kit should include:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Flashlight and batteries | Cotton balls and swabs |
| Sterile gauze pads and bandages | First aid tape |
| Scissors and tweezers | Eye dropper |
| Thermometer and Vaseline | Sterile latex gloves |
| Blanket | Muzzle and leash |
| Splint | Antiseptic wipes |
| Antibacterial ointment | Hydrocortisone cream |
| Hydrogen peroxide | Veterinary documents |
| Rubbing alcohol | Saline solution (clean eyes and wounds) |
| Styptic powder (to stop bleeding) | Prescription medicine |
| Benedryl | Buffered aspirin |
| Self-activating hot and cold packs | Book on human and animal first aid |

Many of these items will be mirrored in a human first aid kit. You can just add the additional items needed for an animal and have one large kit if you prefer.

It is also a good idea to take a course in pet first aid. It will teach you pet CPR, treating wounds, splinting, responding to shock, helping a choking animal, and more. Many of them will include a pet first aid book as well. Being prepared and knowledgeable can very well save the life of your loved ones.



Help us control the pet overpopulation problem. Get your pet spayed or neutered!



Call or email us and we'll bring the Mobile Pet Bus to your business or neighborhood!

602-506-8995

llong@mail.maricopa.gov

Ways to Help the Animals

While MCACC was originally founded for the purpose of catching and killing stray animals to prevent the spread of rabies and other diseases, the population growth in Maricopa County has resulted in an ever increasing number of healthy and treatable dogs and cats looking to MCACC to find them homes. As a "special revenue fund" within Maricopa County, MCACC is responsible for generating funds for both its mandated and non-mandated services.

By becoming a donor of your dollars, your time, or by holding a donation drive, you can help ensure that MCACC can provide the care and services that will ultimately make it possible to reach the goal of eliminating the euthanasia of healthy and treatable pets by 2012.

Please send me information about the following

◇ How to Volunteer

◇ How to Donate

◇ Information on: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

☐ I would like to receive your email newsletter!

Mail to: MCACC Community Relations

2500 S. 27th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009

Tune in and catch our animals on TV and the radio!

- Every Saturday on Channel 12 at 9:35 a.m.
- Every other Thursday on Channel 12 at 1:35 p.m.
- Every last Tuesday of the month on KOOL radio 94.5
- The 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month on Channel 15 at 11:00 a.m.
- Every Wednesday on 98.7 the Peak at 7:00 a.m.
- You can also find them online at ktar.com

The Importance of Spaying and Neutering

Each year, millions of animals are euthanized in shelters across the country. Most of these animals are happy and healthy and would make great companions if only there were enough homes. Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC) is dedicated to reducing the number of unwanted pets through spaying and neutering. As Spring arrives, so will the litters of unwanted puppies and kittens.

Besides reducing pet overpopulation, these sterilization procedures provide many benefits, both for pets and their owners:

- Keeps your pet healthy, reducing costly medical bills and helping your pet to live longer.
- Reduces the chances your pet will get lost, since he or she won't have the urge to roam and seek a mate.
- Helps prevent behavior problems, such as aggression, spraying, and marking territory.
- Reduces the cost of a dog license, since the license for spayed or neutered dogs is only \$17 compared to \$42 for an unaltered dog.

MCACC offers several spay/neuter services: You can attend one of our Uno por Uno spay neuter events. The Uno por Uno program visits a different community each month holding clinics. Please visit www.pets.maricopa.gov to find out where the next clinic will be held.

You can apply for SNAP, which provides no-cost spay and neuter surgeries to pets of people in financial need. Once your application has been approved, we will issue you a voucher. With that voucher, you must schedule a surgery appointment with one of the contracted veterinarians identified on the voucher, to occur within 90 days of the issue date. For an application, please come into one of our shelters at the beginning of each month.

Thank you for being a responsible pet owner and for helping reduce the problem of pet overpopulation in Maricopa County.





Visit one our Animal Care Centers!

West Valley Care Center
2500 S. 27th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85009

East Valley Care Center
2630 W. 8th St.
Mesa, AZ 85201

Phone: 602-506-PETS (7387)

E-mail: ahollis@mail.maricopa.gov

We're on the web!

www.pets.maricopa.gov

MCACC's new approach to delivering animal care and control services reflects the delicate balance that exists between animal welfare and animal control. We strive to be proactive and offer programs to prevent problems before they occur. It is our vision to reduce the dangers and nuisances caused by irresponsible pet ownership and to protect pets from abuse, neglect and homelessness.

Our mission is to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of people and pets in Maricopa County.

MCACC offers a multitude of services to assist you and your pets:

- Adoption of cats and dogs
- Spay/Neuter programs
- Licensing
- Rabies vaccinations
- Lost and found shelter care
- Stray dog pick up
- Microchips
- Opportunities to volunteer and become foster care givers



Friends of Animal Care and Control

Our mission is to end euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats in our community by raising funds to support the special programs of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control.

P.O. Box 80739
Phoenix, AZ 85060

602-626-5073

Visit us at: www.azfaccs.org

Friends of Animal Care and Control Thrift Store

The FACCs thrift shop sells a wide variety of gently used items. Proceeds from the sales fund MCACC's valuable programs.



FACCs Thrift Shop

12625 N. Cave Creek Road (North of Thunderbird)

Phoenix, AZ 85022

602-923-6914

Store hours: Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm

Tuesday and Thursday open until 6:00 pm

Do you love animals? Do you have some items that you'd like to donate to charity? Please donate them to the FACCs thrift shop! The store is currently accepting the following gently used items:

- | | |
|---|---|
| - Clothing, purses, jewelry, shoes | - Household items (lamps, linens, bedspreads) |
| - Dishes, glassware, utensils | - Kitchen and office appliances |
| - Furniture - indoor and outdoor | - Computers, printers, software |
| - Books | - Artwork |
| - Tools | - Cell phones, PDA's |
| - Children's clothing and toys (no furniture or car seats please) | |

For a large item (or large amount), call us to arrange a free pick up at (602) 996-7399.

FACC's mission is to end euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats in our community by raising funds to support the programs of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control.

